

(c) REMARKS

The claims are 20-26 with claim 20 the sole independent claim. Claim 20 has been amended pursuant to page 13, lines 24-26 and page 15, lines 12 and 13.

Reconsideration of the claims is expressly requested.

Claims 20 and 22-25 were rejected as obvious over Polan in view of Kramer. On page 4 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner notes that in Fig. 15 of Kramer, contact rings 46 have a gap therebetween and hard backings 64 are disposed over upper surfaces of contact rings 46. The Examiner then refers to the first members as "contact rings 44." Claims 21 and 26 were rejected as obvious over Polan in view of Kramer and further in view of either Shang or Nakamura.

On page 7 of the Official Action and in the Response to Arguments section, the Examiner argues that Fig. 15 of Kramer shows hard backing 64 is disposed over an upper surface of contact ring 46. The Examiner also notes that the hard covering 64 is not said to be permanently mounted. The Examiner notes that even assuming the sealing bands and hard backing are not detachable, then this will be obvious to do in order to service or replace them. The grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.

Applicants note that in column 6, line 29 of Kramer, it is disclosed with regard to Fig. 15 that "The contact ring is omitted and the sealing bands 46 seal the sheet 10 as before." It is also disclosed in Kramer column 4, lines 45-52, that the sealing bands 46 are resilient and formed of polyethylene or the like. In column 4, lines 57-64 it is disclosed that the resilient sealing rings are depressed by tension and collapse to form a seal.

In contrast, the instant first member is a flat plate and, accordingly, is different from polyethylene sealing bands which are resilient. As disclosed on specification page 13, lines 24-26, the first member 304b is a flat conductive plate preferably with a thickness of 0.5 - 10 mm. This thickness generally corresponds to a plate up to ½" in thickness. As shown on page 11, paragraph [0038], magnets 304a can be disposed on flat plates 304b constituting the first members. Therefore, the first members are rigid to support the magnets. At the thickness range disclosed the first members are rigid plates.

In contrast, the sealing bands 46 of Kramer are resilient, being formed of polyethylene and require a hard backing polyvinyl chloride provide a sufficient seal which is not readily detachable, but is permanent. There is no suggestion to make the seal detachable. As shown in Fig. 15, the hard backing completely covers bands 46 making detaching very difficult, if at all possible. In contrast, as shown in instant Fig. 2B, the second member primarily covers the gap between first members making separation simple.

Accordingly, it is submitted that none of the references, whether considered alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the present claimed invention nor renders it unpatentable.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Saxon", written over a horizontal line.

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